GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:71
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2016
Safety Audit of Aviation Sector
Venugopal Dr. Ponnusamy

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) had expressed reservations over military aerodromes being used for scheduled flights operations and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether ICAO has been conducting audit of civil aviation sector and if so, the details thereof along with observations/ recommendations thereof for the last three audits and follow-up action taken thereon;

(c) whether ICAO has raised safety concerns during its recent safety audit of India"s aviation standards and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether ICAO has also raised concerns over quality control, regulatory framework and in-flight passenger and cargo security that were assessed to be 99.25 per cent against a world average of about 66 per cent and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Ashok Gajapathi Raju Pusapati)

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement referred in reply to Part (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Starred Ques. No. 71 regarding "Safety Audit of Aviation Sector" to be answered on 21.07.2016. (a) ICAO had initially made an observation that all aerodromes serving schedule air transport operations, including military aerodromes are required to be certified. However, at present defence aerodromes are exempted from licensing by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) upto 31.12.2016.

(b) ICAO under its Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP) conducts regular, mandatory, systematic and harmonized safety audits of all the contracting countries to ensure that they are fulfilling their obligation of safety oversight as required under the Chicago Convention. ICAO audit team has visited India under this programme in 1999, 2001, 2006, 2012 and 2015. Based on the observations made, India has been taking corrective actions to address the findings in the areas of legislation, organization and technical areas of licensing, operations, airworthiness, aerodromes, air navigation services and accident investigation.

(c) ICAO during the audit of India in December 2015 had asked about the steps being taken to ensure adequate number of ATS (Air Traffic Services) personnel in Airports Authority of India. In response, the risk assessment and the immediate mitigations measures already put in place by AAI to ensure adequate number of ATS personnel was communicated to ICAO who accepted the measures adopted. Thus no safety concern was raised by ICAO.

(d) & (e) ICAO conducted audit of Civil Aviation Security in India in October 2015 under their four yearly Universal Security Audit Programme - Continuous Monitoring Approach (USAP-CMA). India"s compliance with ICAO regulations has been rated at 99.25%.